

The examiner is respectfully requested to consider the above preliminary amendment prior to examination of the application.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 4, 2002

By: 

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ANNEXES

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicants submit the following claims with strikeouts and underlining for the Examiner's convenience as required by new rule 37 C.F.R. 1.121 (c)(1)(ii). This paper is not intended to be entered.

11. (Amended) Protecting tube as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 8 40,
~~characterised in that it includes~~ comprising an impregnated resin.

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